

House File 2334 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2334
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 555)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to professional development services for
2 elementary teachers to improve students' literacy skills.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 279.68, subsection 2, paragraph d,
2 subparagraph (3), subparagraph division (a), Code 2014, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (a) Assists students assessed as exhibiting a substantial
5 deficiency in reading to develop the skills to read at
6 grade level. Assistance shall include but not be limited to
7 strategies that formally address dyslexia. For purposes of
8 this section, "dyslexia" means a specific learning disability
9 that is neurological in origin and is characterized by
10 difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition and by
11 poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties
12 typically result from a deficit in the phonological component
13 of language that is often unexpected in relation to other
14 cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom
15 instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in
16 reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can
17 impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

18 Sec. 2. Section 279.68, subsection 4, Code 2014, is amended
19 by adding the following new paragraph:

20 NEW PARAGRAPH. c. The department of education shall
21 collaborate with the area education agencies and the Iowa
22 reading research center established pursuant to section 256.9,
23 subsection 53, to develop and offer at no cost to school
24 districts professional development services to enhance the
25 skills of elementary teachers in the use of evidence-based
26 strategies to improve the literacy skills of all students.
27 From any moneys appropriated to the department of education for
28 purposes of paragraph "b", the department may use a reasonable
29 amount to cover the administrative costs of developing and
30 deploying these professional development services.

31

EXPLANATION

32 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
33 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

34 This bill directs the department of education to collaborate
35 with the area education agencies and the Iowa reading research

1 center, which the director of the department was required
2 to establish in legislation enacted in 2012, to develop and
3 offer at no cost to school districts professional development
4 services to enhance the skills of elementary teachers in the
5 use of evidence-based strategies to improve the literacy skills
6 of all students. The bill permits the department to use,
7 from any moneys appropriated to the department and allocated
8 to school districts to provide professional development
9 services to enhance the skills of elementary teachers to
10 respond to children's reading needs, a reasonable amount to
11 cover the administrative costs of developing and deploying the
12 professional development services.

13 Currently, school districts are directed to establish an
14 initiative to offer intensive accelerated reading instruction
15 to each kindergarten through grade three student who is
16 assessed as exhibiting a substantial deficiency in reading.
17 The reading curriculum under the initiative must assist
18 students to develop skills to read at grade level. Under
19 the bill, such assistance shall include but not be limited
20 to strategies that formally address dyslexia, which the bill
21 defines.